SPORT

Carrick magic transforms United as Arsenal dealt title jolt

LONDON: Manchester United's Matheus Cunha scores the winner past Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya during their Premier League match at the Emirates Stadium.—Reuters

LONDON: Manchester United inflicted Arsenal's first home defeat of the season in a 3-2 thriller at the Emirates to blow the Premier League title race open on Sunday.

A week on from dominating Manchester City in the Manchester derby, Michael Carrick's dream start as United boss continued thanks to Matheus Cunha's stunning later winner that pulled City and Aston Villa back into the title race.

City and Villa, who beat Wolverhampton Wanderers and Newcastle United 2-0 respectively this weekend, are now just four points behind the Gunners.

United's first Premier League win at Arsenal since 2017 also lifted them into the top four at Liverpool's expense after the defending champions' long unbeaten run came undone at Bournemouth.

Arsenal, who are now three league games without a win, have 50 points from 23 games with City and Villa on 46 while a rejuvenated United are fourth with 38.

Carrick looked to have been handed a baptism of fire with City and Arsenal dished up in the first two games of his reign when the former Red Devils midfielder returned to Old Trafford to take over a side that had won just once in seven matches.

But Carrick has delivered two memorable victories that will already spark speculation over whether the 44-year-old deserves to remain in the role beyond the end of the season.

United were lured into that trap once before when Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's brilliant start to his interim role as manager in 2019 earned him a three-year deal.

Carrick still has plenty to prove but could not have made a better start to his quest to deliver Champions League football back to Old Trafford for the first time in three seasons.

"To come here and score three goals in the manner we did, going one down, coming back, then the setback, and still keeping going," said Carrick. "It was a huge moment for us.

"I'm enjoying it. It's a fantastic position to be in. We won't get carried away with two massive results — it's always about what's next, keeping our feet on the ground and doing the right things this week."

Arsenal are chasing a first title since 2004 and could well have built a commanding lead with City and Villa stumbling of late. But Sunday's loss, following consecutive 0-0 draws, has raised the anxiety levels.

"A really painful one," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. "But now it is time to be very close to those players that have given us so much joy and support them because we all want to win.

"You have to give credit to Manchester United. We gave them a goal which is unusual and painful, then two brilliant moments with incredible goals. We were not at our best and paid the price."

Arsenal looked in control when Lisandro Martinez's own goal put them ahead after 29 minutes but the Red Devils quickly levelled when Bryan Mbeumo pounced on a terrible error by Martin Zubimendi in the 37th.

Patrick Dorgu then rifled in a volley in the 50th minute and United's confidence was soaring.

Not for the first time this season, despite their lofty league position, Arsenal were blunt as an attacking force from open play. But they could rely on their prowess from set-pieces to equalise when Mikel Merino forced in a corner on 84 minutes.

United were not finished though and substitute Cunha advanced before curling a right-foot shot past David Raya from 25 metres to spark wild celebrations in the visiting fans and deliver a telling blow to the Gunners' hopes of a first league title in 22 years.—Agencies

Juve deal blow to Napoli title defence, Milan slip further behind Inter

TURIN: Juventus dealt a huge blow to Napoli's Serie A title defence on Sunday with a 3-0 win in Turin which left the reigning champions nine points behind league leaders Inter Milan, who are pulling away from the chasing pack.

Jonathan David, Kenan Yildiz and Filip Kostic netted in Turin as Juve, a revitalised team under Luciano Spalletti, boosted their top-four hopes with a statement win.

Juve moved to fifth on 42 points, one behind both Napoli and AS Roma, who lifted themselves into third with a 1-1 draw with second-placed AC Milan in Rome, and 10 adrift of leaders Inter Milan.

"We played really well and had fun... today we were great," Yildiz told DAZN. "We had fun on the pitch and with our fans today, let's hope we can keep going like this."

The result meant that Luciano Spalletti got the better of Antonio Conte with both coaches meeting former squads. Spalletti coached Napoli to the Serie A title in 2023, while Conte led Juventus to three straight Italian league titles after also playing for the club.

Conte's Napoli now turn their attentions to Wednesday's visit of Chelsea, a huge match which will decide whether they stay in the Champions League.

Conte has had awful luck with injuries this term, and the only positive news from an awful evening for Napoli was the return of Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku, who played his first minutes of the season as a late substitute.

"I can't criticise the lads, they gave everything," Conte told Sky. "Sometimes you manage to overcome the hurdles, sometimes you don't... We know what the situation is (with injuries), but you can't cry about it, you've got to keep going."

The visitors arrived with a growing injury list, having lost goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic to a muscle problem he suffered in training, while David Neres was ruled out following recent surgery, with Matteo Politano, Kevin De Bruyne, Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa and Billy Gilmour already absent.

TURIN: Juventus' Jonathan David (C) celebrates with team-mates Khephren Thuram, Kenan Yildiz, Weston McKennie and Pierre Kalulu after scoring during the Serie A match against Napoli at the Allianz Stadium.—AFP

Juve showed their ambition when Khepren Thuram sent a curling effort from the edge of the box against the woodwork, with the rebound bouncing clear.

After dominating the early stages, the hosts were rewarded in the 22nd minute when Manuel Locatelli floated a clever pass into the area, which David controlled with his chest before finishing from a tight angle.

Yildiz nearly doubled the lead three minutes later when he broke through and fired a low shot past Napoli keeper Alex Meret, but Alessandro Buongiorno produced a crucial goal-line clearance to deny him.

After an intense first half, the match slowed after the break, with both sides seemingly conserving energy for a late push.

Yildiz got his goal in the 77th minute when he timed his run to meet a through ball from Fabio Miretti inside the box before calmly sending the ball past Meret to double Juventus lead and seal the match.

Napoli's night got worse in the 86th minute when Kostic's long shot seemingly took Meret by surprise, with the ball going into the bottom corner.

Napoli were overtaken on goal difference by Roma, who claimed a draw thanks to Lorenzo Pellegrini's penalty which also gave Inter a five-point lead over their local rivals Milan at the top of the league.

Roma looked set for another defeat in a big game in the 62nd minute when Koni De Winter headed home Luka Modric's brilliant cross to give Milan the lead at the Stadio Olimpico.

The hosts had dominated the first half and were frustrated by Mike Maignan, who was again excellent in the Milan goal, so De Winter's first Serie A goal felt like a sucker punch.

However, the home crowd were roaring 12 minutes later when Davide Bartesaghi was penalised for handball and the referee pointed to the spot, with Pellegrini making no mistake to level for Roma.

"Had we scored first we'd have had a really good chance to win," said Roma coach Gian Piero Gasperini. "The table says that Milan are the second best team in the country, and we come out of this game stronger than we were before it. To concede so little against a team as good as Milan is the result of a lot of application and hard work."

Former Napoli man Giacomo Raspadori scored on his full debut for Atalanta as the Bergamo club thumped Parma 4-0 to bounce back from a painful midweek defeat to Athletic Bilbao.

Gianluca Scamacca, Marten de Roon and Nikola Krstovic scored the other goals in a comfortable victory for Raffaele Palladino's team, who next weekend face high-flying Como.

Bologna are 10 points away from Como, who are in the Europa Conference League spot, after throwing away a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 at Daniele De Rossi's Genoa, who pulled six points clear of the relegation zone with a stunning comeback.

Sassuolo beat Cremonese 1-0.—Agencies

Endrick hat-trick fires Lyon to thumping win

PARIS: Brazilian teenager Endrick, on loan from Real Madrid, announced himself to Ligue 1 with a hat-trick as Olympique Lyonnais thrashed bottom club Metz 5-2 on Sunday.

The 19-year-old's first league goals for the club helped fourth-placed Lyon extend their advantage over Lille, who were thumped 4-1 at home by Gary O'Neil's Strasbourg, to four points.

Endrick put visitors Lyon ahead at the Stade Saint-Symphorien with a clever chip over Metz goalkeeper Jonathan Fischer from Corentin Tolisso's pass in the 11th minute.

Ruben Kluivert, son of former Netherlands striker Patrick, doubled the advantage five minutes later with his first goal for Lyon.

Former Liverpool midfielder Tyler Morton made it three just after the half-hour mark before Koffi Kouao pulled one back for Metz.

Endrick raced clear from the halfway line and rounded off a one-sided first half with a cool finish.

Habib Diallo again cut the deficit for the struggling hosts, but Endrick completed his hat-trick with three minutes remaining from the penalty spot.

Strasbourg made it back-to-back Ligue 1 wins since former Bournemouth and Wolvehampton Wanderers manager O'Neil replaced Liam Rosenior when his fellow Englishman left for Chelsea earlier this month.

Argentinian striker Joaquin Panichelli's 11th league goal of the season put the visitors in front at Lille's Stade Pierre-Mauroy in the 25th minute.

Julio Enciso dinked in his first Ligue 1 goal since signing from Brighton & Hove Albion in the summer less than two minutes later.

Martial Godo scored a second-half double and an injury-time consolation from Lille forward Matias Fernandez-Pardo could not take the gloss off a brilliant display from Strasbourg.

They climbed to sixth place, just two points behind Bruno Genesio's Lille, who have lost three league games in a row without scoring, conceding nine times.

Earlier, Nice ended their eight-match winless run in the league by defeating fellow strugglers Nantes 4-1 to move seven points clear of the bottom three.

Paris FC were held to a goalless draw by Angers but are now six points ahead of Nantes, who occupy the relegation play-off spot in 16th.—AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Artists perform in front of the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup logo presented during the launch ceremony on Sunday. Global football body FIFA unveiled the emblem, slogan and sonic identity of the 2027 tournament, which will be the 10th edition of the Women's World Cup and will mark the first time a South American country has hosted the event. At the launch, FIFA unveiled the official slogan: 'GO EPIC', which draws its energy from Brazilian culture, particularly its music. The logo revolves around the two 'W's (for Women and World), inspired by the Portuguese words Mulheres (Women) and Mundo (World). According to the organisers, the design evokes movement and control, while paying homage to the colours of the Brazilian flag.—AFP

Brazil coach 'counting on' Marta for home Women's World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil are counting on women's football great Marta for the 2027 World Cup on home soil, even though she will be 41 then, coach Arthur Elias told AFP.

Marta is a six-time FIFA women's player of the year but has never won the World Cup, playing in the Brazil team that lost 2-0 to Germany in the 2007 final in China.

"I'm counting on her, I'm counting on all the players who are in form, like Marta," Elias told AFP on Sunday. "But neither she nor I know whether she will take part, only time will tell."

Last May, Marta was called up to the Brazil squad for the first time in nine months.

She had said following Brazil's Olympic final defeat to the United States in August 2024 that she had probably played her last match for her country.

But back in the squad, she was then selected for the women's Copa America in July 2025, winning that for the fourth time in her career.

She subsequently revealed that she was not ruling out playing on for the Selecao until the 2027 World Cup.

Her 17 goals in the tournament is a record.

Whoever he picks, Elias believes that Brazil, whose men's team have been world champions a record five times, have a great chance of finally winning a first women's title.

Brazil will become in 2027 the first South American nation to host the Women's World Cup.

"We have a great opportunity because the Selecao is going through a great moment and we have young players who will keep improving between now and the World Cup," he said. "It will be difficult, but playing at home increases our chances. I'm feeling optimistic."—AFP

Bradman's 'Baggy Green' cap worn against India sells for $460,000

MELBOURNE: A "Baggy Green" cap worn by Don Bradman during a series against India in 1947-48 was sold for $460,000 at a Gold Coast auction on Monday, fetching the highest price for a cap sported by the great Australian batsman.

Bradman had gifted it to Indian cricketer Sriranga Wasudev Sohoni, whose family preserved it for the last 75 years.

"That's over three generations under lock and key. If you were a family member you were only allowed to look at it when you were 16 years old for five minutes, said Lee Hames, the chief operating officer of Lloyds Auctioneers and Valuers.

The cap was sold to an anonymous bidder and will be kept on display at an Australian museum, local media reported. The cap, which has the names "D.G. Bradman" and "S.W. Sohoni" inscribed on the inside, is in good condition. Another cap worn by Bradman was sun-faded and insect-damaged when it fetched $311,000 at auction in 2024.

Widely regarded as the greatest batsman in history, Bradman played 52 Tests with a batting average of 99.94, nearly 40 runs higher than any other player.—Reuters